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Urban District of Consett.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

JOHN G. WALKER,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CONSETT :

Derwent Press Limited, Front Street.

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH, BUILDING
AND SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1937.

Chairman: Coun. J. R. SURTEES.

Couns. T. E. Askew, H. Bell, G. A. Bellam, A.
Bridgewater, G. T. Hedley, G. Holden, F. Davis,
G. H. Howatt, R. Farbridge, J. J. Ward and
E. R. Little.

Also Chairman of the Council,
Coun. J. R. Ashby, J.P., C.C. (ex-officio).

Vice-Chairman, Coun. E. Atkinson (ex-officio).

Medical Officer of Health and
Sanitary Inspectors Department,
Council Offices,
St. Ives Road,
Leadgate.

Telephone : Consett 148.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of Consett Urban District during 1937. Its preparation has involved more difficulties than usual owing to the change of District which occurred in April. Figures have had to be compiled from available data in respect of the added Parishes and from those supplied by the Registrar General in respect of the three old Urban Districts, and whilst in some cases errors may have crept in owing to this difficulty, they will be of no great significance and the figures presented are a fair representation of the Vital Statistics for the year, of the new District, and on the whole may be regarded as satisfactory.

The Council have settled to their task of dealing with the affairs of the new District with commendable speed and zeal, and the staff of the Health Department have tried to meet their requirements so far as the difficulties inherent to such a great change have permitted.

The year has been an exceptionally difficult one in many respects, and calls for additional efforts on the part of the Staff to cope with matters, have in all cases been willingly responded to and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for their loyal co-operation. The assistance of officials in other Departments is also gratefully acknowledged and the active support of all Members of the Council in any measure of Public Health interest is a constant source of encouragement.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	9,840
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	38,046
Population (estimated by the Registrar-General)					
Resident Population Mid-Year 1937	...	...	...	...	37,280
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937)					
according to the rate-books	...	...	...	...	9,666
Unreduced Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£184,195
Reduced Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£146,104
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£543
Births during 1937	...	677	Birth-rate	...	18·1
Deaths during 1937	...	448	Crude Death-rate	...	12·0
Infantile Mortality Rate, 1937	...	...	...	...	70·9
Tuberculosis Death-rate, 1937	...	...	...	...	0·51
Pulmonary	...	0·44	Non-Pulmonary	...	0·07
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	...	0·64

THE NEW CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT.

Consett Urban District was constituted a Local Board Division in 1865, with an area of 1,005 acres and a population of about 7,000. Following a Public Enquiry in 1919, a further 498 acres were added, and largely developed as a housing estate. Discussions between representatives of the three adjoining Urban Districts, Consett, Benfieldside and Leadgate with a view to the Amalgamation of these Districts proceeded along the lines subsequently developed by the passage of the Local Government Act of 1929, and in April of 1937, the new District was formed.

It now includes, in addition to the three old Urban Areas, whose Local Government interests are identical, the Parishes of Knitsley, Ebchester and Medomsley formerly in the Lanchester Rural District.

The highest parts of the town in the former Consett Urban District are about 870 feet above Sea Level, and the land slopes away to the Derwent Valley on the one side and towards Lanchester on the other.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INDUSTRIES, ETC.

The decrease in unemployment and improvement in the main local industries was maintained during the year. The chief industries are those of Iron and Steel production, Coal-mining and associated bye-products, together with Brick-making and quarrying. There are many voluntary as well as official Social Activities in this District, and every endeavour is made to secure the co-operation of all these bodies wherever the opportunity occurs. The assistance of the Officers of the Ministry of Labour, the Unemployment Assistance Board and the Public Assistance Committee in various matters during the year is gratefully acknowledged.

SPECIAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS, EFFECTS OF OCCUPATION, Etc.

Measles and Whooping Cough were very prevalent in the latter part of the year, and a sharp outbreak of Diphtheria in the Leadgate part of the area occurred in November and December. There is no apparent ill effect on the health of the inhabitants by reason of their occupations, and apart from the increased accident rates associated with these heavy industries, they appear to have no untoward effects. There is no statistical evidence to show that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults. Individual cases of nutritional deficiencies do occur, but appear to be distributed among all classes of the population, irrespective of means, so far as our limited observation is concerned.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

These figures usually are regarded as dry and uninteresting. Why then should we go to all the trouble of preparing them? There are several reasons, one of which is, that just as a well managed Commercial undertaking prepares its balance sheet for the year, to summarise gains or losses, so are these figures prepared and published nationally as in the Ministry of Health Reports, and locally by the various Sanitary Authorities throughout the Country, to ascertain our progress.

The recorded figures are calculated as rates, frequently per thousand population, per thousand births and so on. This method

makes them comparable to some extent with similar rates in other districts. Frequently further corrections are needed for variations in the composition of the population, sexes, age group, occupations, etc. In relatively small populations it is safer to judge by averages over periods of five years rather than by the result of one year, but generally speaking the healthiness or otherwise of a district should be judged by considering the figures as a whole, and comparing them with previous records, or with those of similar districts.

The usual ones dealt with are:—

(1) **POPULATION.**—This can be calculated in various ways, the most accurate being the census. It is affected in this area by industrial conditions, leading to periodic migration or immigration as the local industries are prosperous or otherwise. There is what is termed the “Natural increase” each year, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, and the falling birth-rate is gradually reducing that excess.

(2) **DEATH-RATE.**—This in its crude form is the number of deaths recorded, per thousand of the population of the district concerned. The corrected death-rate is obtained by multiplying the crude death-rate by a comparability factor, which allows for inequalities of distribution of sexes, age groups, etc., in different populations. We find by comparing past records that the crude death-rate in Consett Urban District fell from 19.2 in the quinquennium 1894-1898—to 12.2 in a similar period 1930-1934. In other words had the same rate of dying operated in 1937 as in the earlier quinquennium we should have recorded 718 deaths instead of 448, so we have gained to the extent of 270 lives in that year by the reduction in the death-rate.

(3) **INFANT MORTALITY RATE.**—This is a rate obtained by calculating the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand births. It forms a valuable index, as infants more readily succumb to the diseases favoured by an insanitary environment. Again reference to past records shows that in the same periods already referred to this rate has fallen from 174 to 88. The rate in 1937 was practically 71, which means that had the rate prevailed that existed forty years ago 118 infant deaths would have been recorded instead of 48.

(4) ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—This is the rate per thousand population of the deaths from the principal infectious diseases. Referring to previous records we see that in the same periods dealt with this has fallen from 1.8 to 0.5, which rates mean that had the higher rate prevailed in 1937, there would have been 67 deaths to record, instead of the 24 actually recorded.

There are numerous other rates recorded, but all have some bearing on the final judgment, and whilst spectacular results are not obtained from year to year it can readily be seen that Public Health measures have justified their introduction, and have amply repaid the nation for the expenditure incurred in human lives saved and in the health and happiness of countless numbers.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate Illegitimate	660 17	337 8	323 9	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 18.1.
Still Births	{ Legitimate Illegitimate	35 3	19 1	16 2	
Deaths	...	448	231	217	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12.0.
Deaths from puerperal causes					Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis			1	1.4
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes			0	0
Total ...					1.4

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	70.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	69.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	117.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	51
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	..	...	4

The following figures relate to Jan. 1st—Mar. 31st 1937 only, in respect of all Districts except Consett. In this case they relate to the old Consett Urban Area from Jan. 1st—Mar. 31st plus the new area from April 1st to Dec. 31st, 1937.

No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.	Consett.	Benfieldside. Jan 1-Mar 31.	Leadgate. Jan 1-Mar 31.	Medomsley, Knitsley & Ebchester. Jan 1-Mar 31.	Totals for Year.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	136	5	3	3	147
Diphtheria ...	158	12	1	9	180
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	27	2	—	—	29
Peurperal Fever...	—	—	—	—	—
Peurperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas ...	12	2	—	—	14

Live Births.	Consett.	Benfieldside.	Leadgate.	Medomsley, Knitsley & Ebchester.	Totals.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Total ...	284 289	17 21	21 7	23 15	345 332
Legitimate ...	277 282	17 21	21 7	22 13	337 323
Illegitimate ...	7 7	— —	— —	1 2	8 9

Still Births.	Consett.	Benfieldside.	Leadgate.	Medomsley, Knitsley & Ebchester.	Totals.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Total. ...	18 16	2 2	— —	— —	20 18
Legitimate ...	17 14	2 2	— —	— —	19 16
Illegitimate ...	1 2	— —	— —	— —	1 2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	Consett.	Benfieldside.	Leadgate.	Medomsley, Knitsley & Ebchester.	Totals.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Total ...	26 13	1 0	4 1	2 1	33 15
Legitimate ...	25 12	1 0	4 1	2 1	32 14
Illegitimate ...	1 1	— —	— —	— —	1 1

(a) POPULATION.—The Registrar General estimates the Resident Population of Consett Urban District at Mid-year 1937, as 37,280. This is a considerable reduction on the figures at the 1931 census which was 38,046. A census was taken by the Rating department during the compilation of the Register of Electors and this gives a total of 37,698. The following tables give the details of the population in May of 1938 in the various Wards of the New area, and also a comparison with the figures at the 1931 Census.

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 1938 CENSUS.

WHOLE AREA.

WARD.		NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS.							
		Under 5 yrs of age.		5 yrs. and und'r 10 yrs of age.		10 yrs. of age & over.		TOTAL.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Benfieldside	1	142	120	124	119	1362	1422	1628	1661
"	2	83	96	97	78	896	958	1076	1132
Blackhill	3	182	144	169	200	1747	1694	2098	2038
"	4	35	36	43	40	376	338	454	414
Consett									
North Ward	5	160	168	148	130	1834	1941	2142	2239
South Ward	6	110	133	122	100	1404	1328	1636	1561
"	7	180	198	193	211	1119	1039	1492	1448
Crookhall	8	56	53	40	42	670	621	766	716
"	9	68	61	77	69	556	471	701	601
Delves Lane	10	76	61	103	109	806	698	985	868
"	11	2	2	2	2	16	14	20	18
Ribchester	12	30	30	30	40	387	410	447	480
Leadgate	13	184	195	283	202	2036	1893	2563	2290
Medonsley	14	57	64	80	69	685	591	822	724
"	15	30	21	28	36	349	353	467	410
"	16	14	12	22	11	139	121	175	144
"	17	61	66	65	54	653	550	779	670
"	18	40	30	29	39	528	502	597	571
"	19	44	43	34	32	440	392	518	467
Totals		Males							
		Females							
		1554		1689		16003		19246	
			1533		1583		15336		18152
Grand Total ...								37698	

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Comparison of the population at Census of 1931 with Census taken in May, 1938.

Ward.	Population (1931 Census).	Population May, 1938.	Increase.	Decrease
Ebchester ...	823	927	104	—
Medomsley ...	7005	6284	—	721
Leadgate ...	4933	4793	—	140
Benfieldside ...	4974	5497	523	—
Blackhill ...	5005	5004	—	1
Consett North ...	4526	4381	—	145
Consett South ...	5818	6137	319	—
Crookball ...	2728	2784	56	—
Delves Lane ...	2159	1891	—	268
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	37971	37698	Nett Decrease ...	273 persons

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of
Mortality, Maternal Death-Rates, and
Case-rates for certain Infectious
Diseases in the year 1937.

England and Wales, London
125 Great Towns and 148
Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Consett Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
BIRTHS :					
Live	14· 9	14· 9	15· 3	13· 3	18· 1
Still	0·60	0·67	0·64	0·54	1·00
DEATHS :					
All Causes	12· 4	12· 5	11· 9	12· 3	12· 0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever)	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01	0·08
Scarlet fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·04	0·04	0·03	0·06	0·05
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05	0·40
Influenza	0·45	0·39	0·42	0·38	0·29
Violence	0·54	0·45	0·42	0·51	0·40
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Smallpox	0·00	—	0·00	—	—
Scarlet fever	2·33	2·56	2·42	2·69	3·94
Diphtheria	1·49	1·81	1·38	1·93	4·82
Enteric fever	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·05	0·0
Erysipelas	0·37	0·43	0·34	0·44	0·37
Pneumonia	1·36	1·58	1·20	1·18	0·77
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60	71
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age)	5·8	7· 9	3· 2	12· 0	5· 9
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	0·97	Not available			1·46
Others	2·26				0·00
Total	3·23				1·46
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).					
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	0·94	Not available			1·39
Others	2·17				
Total	3·11				
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Puerperal fever	13·93	17·59	11·52	{ 4·15 14·34	{ 4· 1
Puerperal pyrexia					

(b) **LIVE BIRTHS.**—Birth Rate. The number of live births was 677, which gives a birth-rate of 18.1 per 1,000 population which is higher than the County rate of 16.9 and than that for England and Wales which was 14.9.

(c) **STILL BIRTHS.**—There were 38 still births during the year which was a rate of 53.1 per 1,000 total births. This rate is 1.01 per 1,000 population compared with 0.60 for England and Wales.

(d) **SEX DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.**—There were more boys than girls born during the year—345 compared with 332 the ratio being 1,000 males to 962 females.

(e) **ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND DEATHS.**—There were 17 illegitimate births equal to 2.5 per cent. of the total. In former years this figure used to be 4 or 5 per cent. of the total. There were 2 deaths in these 17 cases, a death rate of 117.6 per 1,000 births, compared with 69.6 for legitimate infants.

(f) **DEATHS.**—Crude Death-rate. There were 448 deaths in the area during 1937. The number of males was 231 and of females was 217. This gives a death-rate of 12.0 per 1,000 population compared with 12.1 for the administrative County and 12.4 for England and Wales.

Causes of Deaths in Conssett Urban District, 1937.

Causes of Death.		Males.	Females.	Causes of Death.		Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	231	217	28 Nephritis	...	8	8
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	—	—	29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	1
2 Measles	...	2	1	30 Other Puerperal Causes...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	...	19	7
4 Whooping Cough	...	1	1	32 Senility	...	13	14
5 Diphtheria	...	8	7	33 Suicide	...	2	1
6 Influenza	...	7	4	34 Other Violence	...	8	4
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	—	—	35 Other Defined Diseases	...	16	9
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	—	1	36 Causes Ill-defined or unknown	...	3	—
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	5	11	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)	...	—	—
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	1	2	Small-Pox	...	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	3	—	Polio myelitis	...	—	—
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, tubercularis	...	—	1	Polioencephalitis	...	—	—
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	16	35	Deaths of Infants under 1 year—	...	—	—
14 Diabetes	...	2	2	Total	...	33	15
15 Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c...	...	15	14	Legitimate	...	32	14
16 Heart Disease	...	41	58	Illegitimate	...	1	1
17 Heart Disease	...	—	9	LIVE BIRTHS—Total	...	345	332
18 Aneurysm	...	13	3	Legitimate	...	337	323
19 Other Circulatory Diseases	...	6	9	Illegitimate	...	8	9
20 Bronchitis	...	21	9	STILLBIRTHS—Total	...	20	18
21 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	4	4	Legitimate	...	19	16
22 Other Respiratory Diseases	...	5	1	Illegitimate	...	1	2
23 Peptic Ulcer	...	1	3	POPULATION, Resident	...	—	37,280
24 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	3	1				
25 Appendicitis	...	—	—				
26 Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	2				
27 Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	...	7	4				
Other Digestive Diseases	...	—	—				

(g) CAUSES OF DEATH.—These appear in a detailed table elsewhere. They were:—

48	Deaths from Infants under one year of age ...	10.7 per cent.
11	Deaths from Influenza	2.4 „ „
19	Deaths from Tuberculosis	4.2 „ „
51	„ „ Cancer	11.4 „ „
30	„ „ Pneumonia	6.7 „ „
29	„ „ Cerebral Hæmorrhage	6.5 „ „
16	„ „ Notifiable Diseases	3.6 „ „
(not Tuberculosis)		
99	„ „ Heart Disease	22.1 „ „
16	„ „ Nephritis	3.6 „ „
15	„ „ Violence	3.3 „ „
17	„ „ Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases	3.8 „ „
22	„ „ Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4.9 „ „

Cancer Mortality per 1,000 population 1.36.

(h) CANCER MORTALITY.—There were 51 deaths from Cancer or Malignant Disease, 16 of these were males and 35 females. This accounts for 11.4 per cent. of the total deaths compared with an average of 10.1 per cent. in the old Consett U.D. for the last 5 years. The mortality from this disease was 1.36 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 1.58 in 1935.

There were 16 male deaths, the youngest being 39 years and the oldest 81 years of age. The average age 63.6 years. The female deaths were 35, with the same average age as for males. The youngest of this sex was 37, and the oldest 87 years of age.

SITE OF DISEASE ACCORDING TO SEX.

MALE.				FEMALE.			
Site.	No. of Cases.			Site.	No. of Cases.		
Lungs	2	Stomach & Oesophagus ...	...	9	
Stomach	5	Bowel ... ..	...	4	
Bowel	4	Breast ... ..	...	5	
Kidney	1	Uterus & Ovaries ... ..	...	8	
Prostate	1	Pancreas ... ..	...	1	
Bladder, etc.	2	Thyroid ... ..	...	1	
Glands	1	Mouth & Jaw ... ..	...	2	
				Skin, etc. ... ..	...	2	
				Gall Bladder ... ..	...	3	
			16			35	

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC
DISEASES.

The seven principal infectious diseases were responsible for 24 deaths during the year.

Measles ... ..	...	...	3
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ...	...	...	4
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	15
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	0
Fever (Enteric, Typhus, etc.) ... ..	...	...	0
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	0
			24

This total gives a Zymotic Death-rate of 0.64 per 1,000 population compared with the County rate of 0.45. The figure for the three Urban Districts in 1936 was 0.89.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 48 deaths in infants under one year of age. This gives an infant mortality rate of 70.9 compared with the record low rate for the County 70.0. This rate is still high compared with the low rate of 58 for England and Wales. The rate for the three old Urban Districts in 1936 was 81.8.

Twenty-three of these deaths occurred in infants who only survived a period ranging from 2 hours to 7 days.

- 9 Deaths occurred in infants 1 to 4 weeks old.
- 3 Deaths occurred in infants 1 to 3 months old.
- 6 Deaths occurred in infants 3 to 6 months old.
- 7 Deaths occurred in infants 6 to 12 months old.

Causes of death in infants under one year of age:—

Marasmus, Prematurity Inanition, etc.	...	20
Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza	...	4
Spina Bifida	... ..	2
Congenital Syphilis	... ..	1
Meningitis	... ..	1
Enteritis	... ..	4
Bronchitis and Broncho-Pneumonia	...	9
Convulsions	... ..	4
Toxæmia and Dermatitis	... ..	1
Pyloric Stenosis	... ..	1
Congenital Cyst Liver	... ..	1

48

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

This is not yet settled in its final form since the change in District occurred, and the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for the combined areas of the new Consett and Stanley Urban District Councils, together with that of the Lanchester Rural District Council is under consideration. This constitutes the area of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board, and it is proposed to link up the Hospital administration with the work of the Medical Officer of Health for the whole area.

The position as regards Sanitary Inspectors was also under consideration at the end of the year, the difficulty again being the result of the change over and the Consett Council are doing their utmost to simplify the position by appointing additional Sanitary Inspectors. The position at the end of the year was:—

(a) Medical Officer of Health (Temporary):—

JOHN G. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Offices and duties; Whole time Medical Officer of Health for the joint areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils, in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health, and the Sanitary Officer's Order 1935.

(b) Sanitary Inspector, F. STRINGFELLOW,

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

The duties of this appointment which is whole-time are as set out in the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulation 1935.

These appointments are subject to the approval of the Minister of Health, and 50 per cent. of the salaries are payable from County Funds.

(c) Professional Clerks,

Acting as Assistants in the Health Department.

L. COOK.

H. WALTON.

(d) Clerical Staff.

Clerk, MISS P. E. BARROW.

Junior Clerk, W. ROBERTS.

Medical Officers in connection with Schools, Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis, Veterinary Officers, Food and Drugs Inspectors., Health Visitors, etc., carry out various Public Health Activities in the District. These Officers are appointed and controlled by the County Council.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES—

The County Council have a scheme for the examination of certain specimens at the request of Medical Practitioners in the area. Your Medical Officer of Health is available to assist in such matters with advice as to methods of collection, dispatch, etc. These examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Milk Samples are submitted to the Agricultural Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, by arrangements with the Urban Council, and advisory notes sent to the producers in connection with "Clean Milk Production."

Water Samples are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, for bacteriological Tests, and to the County Public Analyst, Darlington, in other cases.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

The District is well served by ambulances.

- (a) Infectious cases are dealt with by the ambulances of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board.
- (b) Non-infectious and Accident cases are dealt with by the Works Ambulances, and those attached to most Collieries in the area, or by the St. John's Ambulance Association.
- (c) The Consett U.D. as subscribers have the use of the latter in connection with street accidents, etc.
- (d) Cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia for removal to Hospitals outside the District are dealt with by the Lanchester Joint Hospital Boards Ambulances, and cases of Tuberculosis by that of the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY—

Apart from a few isolated places the area is supplied from the mains of the Durham County Water Board. A new 15" main has been provided from the filter beds at Honey Hill, Waskerley, to Consett Park Cottages, and this should improve the supply to the higher points in Consett. In connection with the Hamsterley Mill Estate, a new 6" pipe line has been run from Hamsterley Bank Top to a point near Lintz Ford.

The supply was ample during the year. The County Analyst examines samples of the Board's Water Supply each month, and samples are also submitted occasionally by this Department for bacteriological tests to the Public Health Laboratory, King's College. The provisions of Circular 1684 regarding water supplies, have been noted, and there is an interchange of information between this Department and the Durham County Water Board.

Three samples of water were examined on behalf of this department during the year.

- (1) Sample of water from River Derwent for enteric organisms.
Result.—These were not isolated.

- (2) Sample of water from the Grove—Consett, Durham County Water Board Supply.

Result.—B.Coli per 100 ML. 5

Total Colonies on Agar 37 degrees C per ML. (48 hours) 6.

Total Colonies on Agar 20.22 degrees C (3 days) 90.

Streptococci Test. Negative.

A copy of this Report was sent to the Chief Engineer of the Durham County Water Board.

- (3) Non-mains supply at Allansford—very high Coli Count and not a suitable drinking water. The owner-occupier was advised regarding the precautions to be used.

Active steps are being taken at the time of writing this Report to investigate all Water Supplies in the area which are of doubtful purity or liable to contamination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

The whole question of sewerage and sewage disposal has received very careful consideration by the Council, and at the time of writing tenders are being sought for the reorganization of the existing schemes on a large scale.

At present eleven sewage disposal works exist in various parts of the area, and the new proposals include the abandonment of the following works:—

Consett Park.

Templetown.

Park Terrace.

Balmoral Terrace.

The main scheme is to concentrate disposal at the existing Westwood Works to which the four above-mentioned disposal points can be carried by gravitation. Further existing disposal works at Medomsley and The Dene, will gravitate to pumping stations at Hamsterley and Ebchester and will be pumped along with the sewage from Hamsterley and Ebchester to the enlarged Westwood Works.

The present intention is to retain Crookhall Sewage Works, Leadgate (completed in 1925), Pont Sewage Works (completed in 1927), and the Works at Knitsley, and to abolish Crookhall (Consett) works by carrying the sewage from this point to Crookhall (Leadgate) where any necessary extensions can be carried out.

A Public Enquiry concerning these proposals was held on August 25th, 1937, at Consett.

Drainage at three houses in Leadgate formerly unconnected were conveyed to a new length of sewer. The completion of the new Scheme will provide for the picking up of many similar cases of properties at present not draining to a sewer, thus effecting a very much needed improvement.

RIVERS AND STREAMS—

No special action was taken with a view to check pollution of rivers or streams in the area, and no cases of pollution were encountered.

A sample of river water from a place used as a swimming pool was examined during the warm weather, but no Enteric organisms were isolated.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

At the time of Amalgamation details of the existing fitments were shewn as follows:—

			Water Closets.		Ash Closets.		Ashpit Privies.
Consett	...	...	3585	...	46	...	21
Benfieldside	...	...	1785	...	233	...	282
Leadgate	...	...	1289	...	46	...	164
Knitsley, Ebchester and Medomsley	...		1902	...	462	...	169
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		Totals	8561	...	787	...	636
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

During the year 80 w.c. conversions have been effected, and 16 of the conservancy type were demolished. In connection with new work and reconstructions a further 206 water closets have been added giving total accommodation in the area at the end of 1937.

Water Closets	...	...	...	8847
Ash Closets	...	...	...	738
Ashpit Privies	...	...	...	589

A scheme is in course of preparation for the conversion of 362 closets in the Medomsley area, and the figures for the Benfieldside and Leadgate areas will be further reduced as a result of demolition of properties at present being dealt with under Clearance and Individually Unfit Schemes. It is highly desirable in the Public Health interest that the remaining insanitary conveniences be converted to water-carriage as rapidly as circumstances permit.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

This work is carried out under the control of the Surveyor. The Council has undertaken to remove house refuse and to cleanse earth closets, privies and ashpits in all parts of the district. Previously in a small part of the area the duty of cleansing was on the occupier.

The Council has not accepted the responsibility of cleansing Cesspools.

The work of house refuse removal is carried out by the Council in approximately half the area, by direct labour. The transport consists of motors having covered tipping bodies. The remaining parts

of the district are cleansed by contractors, and the Council has under consideration the question of taking over complete direct control of the work as a whole.

Disposal is by tipping on uneven stretches of land and quarries in various parts of the area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA—

Following amalgamation, the collating of the various books and records involved much time and labour, and particularly with regard to matters of housing, overcrowding and licences. The latter have now been renewed in each case to the end of December.

Summary of Work done during the Year, 1937

<i>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.</i>			Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Foul condations	...	...	7	—	7
Structural defects	...	...	244	—	221
Overcrowding	...	...	1	—	1
Lodging Houses	...	...	1	—	1
Cowsheds	...	...	21	—	18
Slaughterhouses	...	...	22	—	22
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	154	—	141
Deposits of Refuse or Manure	...	...	9	1	9
Waterclosets	...	..	11	—	11
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	5	—	5
Defective Traps	...	..	3	—	3
No disconnection from sewers	...	..	2	—	2
Other drainage faults	...	...	48	—	48
Water Supply	...	...	15	—	15
Animals improperly kept	...	...	1	—	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	8	—	8
Other Nuisances	...	...	31	—	31
Totals	...	...	583	1	544

Houses visited following Infectious Disease and disinfectants

Supplied	...	...	...	...	...	...	293
Lots of Infectious Bedding stove	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Library and School Books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	126

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937, on the

1. Inspection of Factories Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories ...	...	25	5	nil
Workshops	..	18	1	nil
Workplaces	...	2	1	nil
Total	...	45	7	nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.			Number of Defects.			Prosecutions.
			Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts</i>						
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Want of ventilation	...	...	1	1	nil	nil
Overcrowding	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other nuisances	...	...	3	3	nil	nil
Sanitary Accommodation	Insufficient		2	2	nil	nil
	Unsuitable or defective		10	10	nil	nil
	not separate for sexes.		1	1	nil	nil
Total	..	...	16	16	nil	nil

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Sec. 108 ... Nil.

Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse ... Nil.

At 2 Factories there was a complete reconstruction of unsatisfactory Closet accommodation to the water carriage system.

The following table gives particulars of work done in the various workshops:—

Aerated Water Manufacture	...	...	...	...	1
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	9
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	11
Boot and Shoe Repairs	...	...	...	...	15
Cycle Repairs	...	...	...	...	2
Concrete Work	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	...	...	7
Firewood Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Implement Repairs	...	...	...	...	1
Joiners	...	...	...	...	22
Monumental Masons	...	...	...	...	2
Motor Repairs	...	...	...	...	8
Plumbing	...	...	...	...	8
Saddlery	...	...	...	...	1
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	4
Tyre Repairs	...	...	...	...	1
Watch Repairs	...	...	...	...	4
Wagon Repairs	...	...	...	...	1
					—
* Total	...	...	...	...	99

SHOPS.

(1) VENTILATION, ETC.

No action was found to be necessary in the cases investigated with regard to temperature and ventilation.

(2) SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

A number of owners were notified of defective sanitary arrangements under the Shops Act 1934, with the following results:—

Separate Closet accommodation for Females provided	1
Wash-hand basin provided	...
Unsatisfactory Closet accommodation demolished	...
New w.c. provided for shop and new exit	...
Work in hand	...

As the population of the district now exceeds twenty thousand, the Council has appointed a full-time Shops Inspector working under the supervision of this department.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A number of observations were made during the year but no action was deemed necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

No Baths or Pools are provided, but work under this head is in its preliminary stages for consideration. It is to be hoped that this plan materialises, as swimming in the River Derwent, near sewer outfalls is not altogether desirable, especially in dry weather when the river is low.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Of the houses found to be in an unsatisfactory condition, 3 Council houses were infested with bugs. Wallpaper was stripped where necessary, and picture rails, skirtings and door moulds eased or removed, and spraying carried out. The tenants are advised in all such cases to scrub repeatedly with soap and water to which is added paraffin and a strong disinfectant, and to refrain from papering walls until the house is clear of vermin. The attention of the Council has been drawn to the matter particularly with regard to dealing with infested furniture, etc., prior to removal to new houses, and the matter is under consideration.

SCHOOLS.

There are 21 schools in the area (20 Elementary, 1 Secondary). Public water supply is connected and the water carriage system of Closet Accommodation is in use in all cases. From observations over a considerable period it would appear that the structural condition or age of a school building does not effect the incidence of Infectious Disease, as curiously enough some of the new buildings have had a much higher incidence than have the older ones.

6 Schools were disinfected at the request of the Education Authority.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

In pursuance of a resolution made by the Consett Urban District Council at their monthly meeting on December 1st, 1937, the Leadgate Council Infants' School and Leadgate Council Mixed School were closed from the third to the twenty-third day of December, 1937, on account of Measles and Diphtheria. This resolution was made with the concurrence and advice of the Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Considerable time has been given to the Inspection of Cow Byres, and Dairies, and the following is a list of premises and persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	66
Farms Registered as Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	65
Other Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	30
Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	25
Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	75
Retail Purveyors from other areas	...	...	...	...	...	19

Excellent alterations and improvements have been carried out to six farms, including the provision of one new Byre and three extensively reconstructed, together with the building of separate Dairies, Sterilizing Rooms and plant in all six cases.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Report by Veterinary Officer upon inspections carried out in the Consett Urban district during the year 1937.

Number of Visits to Cowkeepers	...	...	...	157
Number of Cows examined	...	...	...	1728
General condition and type of Cows	...	...	...	Good.
General cleanliness of Cows	...	...	...	Good.
General conditions of sanitation	...	...	...	Good.
Chief methods of Milk disposal	...	Retail and Wholesale.		

Number of animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order:—

(a) Tuberculosis of the Udder or giving T.B. Milk	...	...	1
(b) Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	9

Total 10

Number of cases of diseases other than Tuberculosis
(chiefly Mastitis) 58

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The general hygienic standard in the Byres and Dairies in this district is good, and a good class of dairy shorthorn cow is kept. A number of improvements have been made to premises during the year with a view to the production of Accredited Milk.

(Signed), J. SMITH,

January 27th, 1938.

Veterinary Officer.

Five samples of Milk were taken from farms for Analysis, the results being as follows:—

Date of Milking.	Total No. of Micro Organism per 1 cubic centimetr.	Coliform Content				Butter Fat per cent.	Solids not Fat per cent.	Methylene Blue Test.
		1c.c.	.1c.c.	.01c.c.	.001c.c.			
28/6/37	590	x	—	—	—	3.15	9.09	—
12/8/37	352,000	x	—	—	—	10.4	7.40	—
27/8/37	990	x	—	—	—	3.55	9.95	—
7/9/37	740	—	—	—	—	3.40	8.95	Satisfactory
21/10/37	2,470	—	—	—	—	3.70	8.65	Satisfactory

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

There are twelve producers of accredited milk, and in addition one non-resident producer who retails such milk in the Council's area.

One firm distributes Pasteurised Milk on an extensive scale, and two dealers licences are in operation for the sale of this milk from shops.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Routine inspections have been made of Slaughter-houses and Shops, and occasional visits made to Stalls and places where food is prepared. There are 25 private Slaughter-houses and 41 Butchers' Shops in the area, the former being licensed by the Council annually. Strict attention to cleanliness and a rapid removal of refuse is necessary in the Slaughter-houses to prevent nuisances arising which will affect nearby dwellings, and in the great majority of cases the work is well carried out.

During the year a demonstration of the slaughter of Sheep by shooting with the captive bolt pistol was witnessed by some members

of the Council, and at a subsequent meeting it was decided not to apply Section 1 (1) of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, to Sheep and Lambs.

Action was taken at Court in a case of slaughtering without having given the requisite notice, and in another case for slaughtering without a licence of a Local Authority, fines being inflicted in each case.

Ante Mortem inspection of animals is not practicable in the majority of cases as cattle are brought in and slaughtered with very little delay.

It will readily be seen by the list of carcasses condemned how necessary and important this work of meat inspection is.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (approx.)	1521	125	40	5454	1292
Number inspected ...	1233	125	40	3624	1238
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole Carcasses Condemned...	—	2	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	16	10	—	34	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis ..	1.29 p.c.	9.6 p.c.	—	.96 p.c.	.40 p.c.
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2,	5	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	10	25	—	—	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	.97 p.c.	24 p.c.	—	—	2.5 p.c.

Following is a detailed list of meat and food destroyed on account of being diseased or otherwise unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	...	Oedema and Emaciation.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	...	Pleurisy and Peritonitis.
1 Bullock Carcase and all organs ...	...	Tuberculosis.
1 Heifer Carcase and all organs ...	...	„
5 Cow Carcases and all organs ...	...	„
6 Fore Quarters (Heifer) ...	...	„
2 Fore Quarters (Bullock) ...	...	„
2 Fore Quarters (Cow) ...	...	„
1 Sheep Carcase and all organs ...	...	Moribund.
4 Fore Quarters (Pig) ...	...	Tuberculosis.
2 Hind Quarters (Pig) ...	...	Traumatism.
3 Stone Beef ...	...	Bruising.
1 Stone Beef ...	...	Putrefaction.
1½ Stone Sausage ...	...	„
2 Stone Cooked Ham ...	...	„
66 Sets of Lungs ...	...	T.B. Parasites etc.
17 Hearts ...	...	Putrefaction.
44 Livers ...	...	Cirrhosis, etc.
44 Heads and Tongues ...	...	Tuberculosis.
11 Mesenteries ...	...	Tuberculosis.
3 Udders ...	...	Mastitis.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1937.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 296

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 952

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 60

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 509

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	49
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	18

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	36
--	----

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:*

A—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.

C—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4

D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 10
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 500
 2. Number of families dwelling therein ... 534
 3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... 3255
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
- (c) 1. Number of cases of overerowding relieved during the year 321
 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 2006
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

HOUSING—OVERCROWDING.

At the time of the Survey, made with a view to ascertaining the amount of overcrowding, the various constituents of the present Urban district produced a total of 855 cases. During the latter part of the year under review a re-visit was made to all existing recorded cases when it was found that of the original 855, a total of 500 still remained. The following table shows the distribution of these cases and the numbers and types of houses necessary to provide re-housing accommodation.

	Cases Recorded at 1935 Survey	Cases existing after Re Inspect'n 1937	Houses required to re-house.	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B
Consett ...	267	142	101	-53	-32	47	43	7	4
Benfieldside	253	183	135	-115	12	49	64	10	—
Leadgate ..	115	73	39	-28	5	-5	22	11	1
Knitsley ...	23	13	8	-3	—	-3	6	2	—
Medomsley	184	82	48	-39	-6	19	24	4	1
Elcheester ...	12	7	6	-4	3	-2	3	—	—
Total ...	558	500	337						

It is obvious from the result of this re-inspection that changes of tenancy are constantly taking place and these changes account for a great part of the overcrowding abatement. Other causes include the reduction of occupants by marriage, or lodgers and sub-tenants acquiring other accommodation. The Council has under consideration the provision of further houses in various parts of the district to deal with this problem.

As will be seen from the table above, assuming a movement of overcrowded cases takes place, numbers of the smaller type houses will be left vacant, and these will give an opportunity to many sub-tenants who whilst not "legally" overcrowded, are urgently in need of proper separate accommodation.

HOUSING ACTS, 1930—1936.
CLEARANCE SCHEMES AND HOUSES DEALT WITH AS
INDIVIDUALLY UNFIT TO DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

Work has been carried out under the above Acts and a number of schemes were being prepared or were in hand at the time of Amalgamation.

The following figures illustrate the position of all unfit houses at the end of the year.

Clearance Areas—Houses demolished	...	...	138
Individual Unfit Houses—Demolished	...	...	70
Parts of Buildings Closed	...	...	6
Dwelling Houses made fit (Secs. 17 to 20)	...	...	12
Closed by Undertaking	...	...	21
Houses made fit following Informal Notice	...	...	26
			<hr/>
			273
Unfit Houses scheduled but necessary action not yet completed	...	...	210
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	483

During the post-war years, and prior to the inception of the 1930 Housing Act, more than 200 unfit houses were demolished.

The Council has now control of 1,694 houses of which number 32 were built during the year.

The provision of a sufficient number of new houses to deal with displaced tenants from unfit houses and with urgent cases of overcrowding is under consideration.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shews the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified in the Consett Urban District (as now constituted) during the last eleven years, i.e., the totals of the separate figures for the former Urban Districts of Consett, Benfieldside and Leadgate plus those of the Parishes of Knitsley, Ebchester and Medomsley.

Disease.	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Smallpox ...	40	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	252	74	57	67	75	221	688	368	124	121	147
Diphtheria ...	95	129	140	141	49	60	183	234	150	164	180
Enteric Fever (and Para-Typhoid)	1	1	2	5	65	1	8	1	13	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	3	3	7	3	2	1	1	—	1	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	11	10	5	5	4	4	9	7	15	3
Ophthalmia											
Neonatorum...	8	6	12	5	5	4	1	2	3	2	2
Erysipelas ...	29	18	29	24	28	22	28	26	19	18	14
Pulmonary											
Tuberculosis ...	43	37	32	19	21	19	16	22	28	20	29
Non-Pulmonary											
Tuberculosis ...	21	25	36	14	16	21	13	11	10	13	24
Dysentery ...	—	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Polio											
Encephalitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal											
Fever...	—	—	1	—	1	3	5	3	5	—	—
Encephalitis											
Lethargica...	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Polio-											
myelitis...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	88	57	42	62	65	78	74	44	32	31	29
Totals ...	591	385	374	345	333	436	1022	720	393	386	431

GENERAL—

The total number of notifications for the new area in 1937 was 397, which compares very favourably with the average number of 498 for the previous 10 years, and even more so with the average number of 591 in the previous five years. The peak figures for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria of 1933-1934 are well in excess of those of 1937. In almost every case of Diphtheria, removal to Isolation Hospital is promptly accomplished, and the great majority of Scarlet Fever cases are also removed when hospital accommodation is available.

There were no cases of Puerperal Fever notified during the year, but three cases were notified as Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case notified Puerperal Pyrexia was found to be a case of Scarlet Fever. No other complication occurred, and the patient recovered.

NOTIFIABLE CASES.

The following Table shows the numbers of cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) admitted to hospital during the year 1937.

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	147	91	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	180	177	15
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	14	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	..	..	3	2	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	29	2	30 (all forms)
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Totals	...	...	...	...	378	273	45

AGE OF OCCURRENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING 1937.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	4	4	16	59	32	14	11	1	2	..	147
Diphtheria ...	1	3	7	9	16	79	55	6	4	..	..	..	180
Erysipelas ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	4	6	14
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
Pneumonia ...	1	..	1	1	..	1	2	3	8	3	7	2	29
Dysentery ...	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	3

OCCURRENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN WARDS DURING 1937.

Disease.	Consett North	Consett South	Leadgate	Benfieldside	Delves Lane	Crookhall	Medomsley	Ebchester	Blackhill	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	13	23	30	8	5	8	36	11	13	147
Diphtheria ...	11	60	40	10	12	10	19	3	15	180
Erysipelas ...	3	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	5	14
Ophthalmia										
Neonatorum	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Pneumonia ...	3	4	7	1	..	3	7	..	4	29
Dysentery ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3

PROPOSED NEW ISOLATION HOSPITAL—

This matter is still under consideration, as the first estimates for the buildings were much in excess of the expected amount. Conferences with the Officers of the Ministry of Health concerned in the matter have succeeded in arranging modifications which, whilst reducing the costs will not materially affect the utility of the proposed hospital, and it is expected that a beginning with the buildings will be made this year.

SCARLET FEVER—

There were 147 cases during the year, and the comparable figure last year was 121. The average number of cases notified per year in the same districts for the last 5 years was 304, and for the last 10 years was 204, so whilst in excess of last year's figure, it was below the average. The type on the whole was, as in recent years mild, and the majority of cases recovered without serious complications. The number of cases treated at home was 56, and whilst public opinion in the main favours hospitalisation of every case, actual experience during recent years has shewn both here and elsewhere that this course is not always justifiable. There were no deaths in these 147 cases.

DIPHTHERIA—

There was an increase in the number of cases notified compared with 1936, 180 as against 164. The peak figure during recent years was in 1934 when 234 cases occurred in the Districts now united as Consett Urban District. The average number of cases per year during the last 5 years was 158, and during the last 10 years 134. It remains yet to see how the response to the Immunisation Scheme will affect this disease. The case mortality was 8.3 per cent. compared with the Consett figure of 11.5 per cent. in 1936.

ENTERIC FEVER (INCLUDING PARA-TYPHOID)—

There were no cases during 1937 for the second successive year.

DYSENTERY—

Three cases were notified during the year, and bacteriological investigation shewed them to be Flexner type. The measures adopted prevented any further spread.

USE OF DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN IN THE DISTRICT—

Supplies of this are available on request by any medical practitioner in the District. In last year's report it was pointed out that only 34 per cent. of the cases admitted to hospital had had anti-toxin prior to removal to hospital. This year the percentage has increased to 50 per cent.

CASE MORTALITY—

The 15 deaths due to Diphtheria represent a case mortality of 8.3 per cent. This is lower than the figures for the old Consett Urban District in recent years, i.e., 11.5 per cent. 1936, 11.1 per cent. 1935, 8 per cent. in 1934. The following particulars are given in respect of the cases that died.

FATAL CASES.

Case.	Age.	Date of Notification	Date of Death.	Days in Hospital,	Anti-toxin given prior to removal.
1	5 years.	7/ 1/37	14/ 1/37	7	No
2	7 "	9/ 3/37	14/ 3/37	5	No
3	4 "	15/ 3/37	21/ 3/37	6	No
4	9 "	12/ 4/37	16/ 4/37	4	No
5	3 "	21/ 5/37	23/ 5/37	2	Yes
6	9 "	22/ 5/37	28/ 5/37	6	Yes
7	4½ "	14/10/37	19/10/37	5	No
8	6 "	6/11/37	24/11/37	18	No
9	8 "	18/11/37	28/11/37	10	No
10	9 "	19/11/37	23/11/37	4	Yes
11	8 "	25/11/37	2/12/37	7	Yes
12	5 "	1/12/37	2/12/37	1	No
13	8 "	2/12/37	3/12/37	1	Yes
14	11 "	12/12/37	20/12/37	8	Yes
15	4 "	24/12/37	27/12/37	3	Yes

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION—

The Council decided in December last to arrange for immunisation against Diphtheria on a larger scale than had formerly been operating. The scheme was put into operation at once, and efforts have been made by poster, leaflet, film displays and talks, to bring the advantages of this protection to the notice of parents.

Clinics were arranged at the Health Department in the first instance to deal with the requests from the area where Diphtheria was at the time most prevalent, and where the department buildings

were easily accessible. During the present year, by arrangement with the Education Authorities, schools are being visited and children treated there after school hours.

The scheme briefly is to circularise the parents or guardians and receive from them signed requests for their children to be treated. The method used is a two injection one, using alum precipitated Toxoid, without a preliminary Schick test. It is proposed to post-Schick test about ten per cent. of the children treated, but the difficulty already found in persuading them to attend for two injections may make even this impracticable. The experience in 1937 is too limited for fuller report, and the matter will be dealt with after a full years' experience, but one point can be emphasised, and that is that the Local Health Authority has performed its part in this preventive scheme. They have provided all reasonable facilities for parents desirous of protecting their children against Diphtheria, and it now remains for the parents to accept their responsibilities and make use of means provided for protecting their children.

TUBERCULOSIS—

There were 53 new cases notified in 1937 compared with an average number of 44 (Consett, Benfieldside and Leadgate only) in the last 10 years. The number of pulmonary cases was 29, and of non-pulmonary cases was 24. Notification of this disease is on the whole good in this area, and the services of the District Tuberculosis Officer are fully sought by the majority of Practitioners in the District. Every effort is made to re-house Tubercular patients living under bad housing conditions and the local Council do their utmost to give priority to such cases on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health. Close co-operation is maintained between the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer and County Health Visitors working in this Area in this matter, and many improvements have been effected.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

(NOTIFIED CASES).

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
15	2	1	5	4	...	...	...	...
25	1	6	3	2	1	3	...	...
35	2	7	2	3	...	6	...	1
45	5	1	1	...	1	1	1	...
55	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
65	1	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
And upwards	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals	12	17	13	11	2	10	2	1

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS—

There were 12 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths during the year among notified cases. The total deaths from this disease was 19 during the year, the percentage in notified cases being 79.

CANCER—

The mortality from this disease has been dealt with elsewhere in this report.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS—

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925 or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936 during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS—

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

EXAMINATION OF SPECIMENS.

The following were examined during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (Samples of water and milk submitted are dealt with elsewhere).

	Total	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive
Throat Swabs for Diptheria	198	42	154	2
Nasal Swabs for 'Virulence'	2	2	0	0
Ear Swab for Diptheria ...	1	0	1	0
Blood for 'Widal'	2	1	1	0
Blood for 'Wasserman' ...	1	0	1	0
Faeces for Dysentry (Flexner)	1	1	0	0
Sputa for Tubercle	41	12	29	0

HEALTH PROPAGANDA

In connection with the National Campaign of Health Publicity, various methods have been adopted—

(1) Hoardings have been erected in Consett, Benfieldside and Leadgate to take the E.M.B. series of Posters and suitable posters calling attention to the various Health Services have been displayed.

(2) Speakers, together with a portable Projector and a supply of Public Health films have been provided for a variety of bodies, opening with the County Council's Health Exhibition, October 21st and 22nd, and followed by speakers and film displays at

St. Cuthbert's Church Hall	Oct. 28th
Do.	Nov. 4th
Do. (2 meetings)	Nov. 22nd
Do. Do.	Dec. 6th
Grove Women's Institute	Dec. 7th
Boys' Club, Consett	Dec. 8th
Toc H, Blackhill	Dec. 10th
Boy Scouts, Consett	Dec. 15th

As these meetings take place at night, it is impossible for the Medical Officer of Health to attend all, and my thanks are tendered to those Councillors who appeared and addressed the audiences at these meetings.

Consett Urban District Council.

Annual Report on Rainfall for 1937.

Mr. Hutton, Surveyor, has kindly supplied the following:—

Month			Rainfall (inches)		Heaviest Daily Fall	No. of days Snow Fell.	Rain Fell.
January	...	...	4.73	31st	day of month	6	16
February	...	...	4.22	27	do.	5	16
March	...	...	3.89	12th	do.	19	5
April	...	...	2.87	16th	do.		21
May	...	...	3.04	20th	do.		18
June	...	...	1.00	19th	do.		13
July	...	...	2.25	7th	do.		13
August	...	...	2.32	15th	do.		12
September	...	...	1.81	17th	do.		11
October	...	...	2.35	23rd	do.		12
November	...	...	1.66	19th	do.	2	9
December	...	...	5.17	11th	do.	15	8
Total	...	...	<u>35.31</u>			<u>47</u>	<u>154</u>

The total rainfall of 35.31 inches is well above the average for Consett. Last year's record shews 35.01 inches. There has been a steady increase since 1932 when only 26.12 inches were recorded.

February 27th holds the record for the wettest day with 1.40 inches, September 17th coming next with 1.13 inches.

Snow and hail fell on 47 days, over twice the total of 1936, which had only 23 days.

Fog and mist was observed in varying densities on 53 days, and thunder on 9 days.

The longest interval without rain was from June 20th to June 27th, with a similar period of 8 days from July 27th to August 3rd, as against a period of 11 days from August 31st in 1936.

